

Advised Not To See Briefing
A briefing for ICVs and Schemes
August 2023



Introduction

Following recent discussions at the quarterly National Expert Forum (NEF) and a number of ad-hoc queries from schemes about detainees that have been advised not to be seen, ICVA has developed a briefing on what ICVs can do in these circumstances.

Code of Practice

According to the Code, access can only be limited or denied “if authorised by an officer of, or above, the rank of Inspector” and only for the reasons of “i) after a risk assessment has been carried out the officer reasonably believes that to be necessary for the visitors’ safety, or ii) if the officer reasonably believes that such access could interfere with the process of justice” ([Code of Practice point 55](#)).

Courses of Action

There are other ways to check on detainees that are not deemed suitable for a visit such as talking through the hatch, checking on them through the hatch visually and checking the custody record. These methods tend to cover many situations where an ICV would be denied access as per the listed reasons above (perhaps it would be useful to have a refresher on [assertiveness](#) so you feel more comfortable asking for this when advised not to see).

It may also be beneficial to read our [High Profile Arrest Briefing](#) which was approved by the NPCC (National Police Chief’s Council).

Lastly, it is important to note that should an ICV be denied access to a detainee for whatever reason, this reason must be recorded on the custody record and the ICV visit report, so if any reason given other than the two listed above – it would be advisable to follow this up with the scheme manager.